

SENATE BILL 1755

By Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to suicide prevention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(o) In consultation with the department and appropriate stakeholders and experts, the board shall develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of § 49-6-3004(c). The approved materials shall include training on identifying appropriate mental health services in schools and in the community. The training shall also include best practices for referring students and their families to those services. The approved materials may include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-2-131.

(a) Each local education agency (LEA) shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. The policy shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts. At a minimum the policy shall address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

(b) In order to assist an LEA in developing policies for student suicide prevention, the department of education shall develop and maintain a model policy to serve as a guide for an LEA in adopting the policy required by subsection (a).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004(c), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(4)

(A) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the suicide prevention provisions of subdivision (c)(1) relating to:

- (i) A plan for training concerning suicide prevention;
- (ii) Training under § 49-1-302(o); or
- (iii) Adopting a policy under § 49-2-131.

(B) The training or lack of training required by subdivision (c)(1), § 49-1-302(o), or § 49-2-131, shall not impose any specific duty of care.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.